

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13433 061536Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PM-04 PA-01 PRS-01 MC-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NRC-05 DODE-00 /098 W

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O R 061543Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2545

INFO ERDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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ERDA WASHDC FOR A. GIAMBUSSO AND S. CIANELLA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: NEW FRENCH LOW ENRICHMENT PROCESS

REF: PARIS 13320

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL OF COGEMA'S ENRICHMENT DIVISION, THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED FRENCH ENRICHMENT PROCESS IS A PHYSICO-CHEMICAL EXCHANGE PROCESS DEMONSTRATED IN THE LABORATORY AND INHERENTLY UNSUITABLE FOR HIGH URANIUM ENRICHMENT. IT WILL REQUIRE FURTHER OPTIMIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION EFFORTS BEFORE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS IS DEMONSTRATED

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AND IT DOES NOT IMPACT PLANS FOR THE EURODIF AND CORODIF ENRICHMENT PLANTS. FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN TODAY'S FRENCH PRESS EMPHASIZE THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH CAN BE USED AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE TO UNDERLINE FRENCH DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN ENERGY AND NONPROLIFERATION AREAS, AND UNDERSCORES FRENCH SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTACT WITH COGNIZANT OFFICIAL OF COGEMA'S ENRICHMENT DIVISION INDICATES THAT: THE SUBJECT PROCESS IS A PHYSICO-CHEMICAL LIQUID EXCHANGE PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN THE LABORATORY; CONDITIONS REQUIRED ARE THUS KNOWN, AND THE EQUILIBRIUM TIMES ARE SUCH THAT IT INHERENTLY CANNOT BE USED FOR HIGH ENRICHMENT PURPOSES. FURTHER OPTIMIZATION WORK AND LARGER INSTALLATIONS ARE NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT COMMERCIALIZATION AND DEMONSTRATE THE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PROCESS. IT WOULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE BEFORE L984-85 AND IT DOES NOT IMPACT PLANS FOR EURODIF AND CORODIF DIFFUSION ENRICHMENT PLANTS. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW PRACTICAL THIS PROCESS IS FOR VERY LARGE-SCALE APPLICATIONS, AND IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO HAVE EXPORT POTENTIAL FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES DESIRING SOME FUEL ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY.

3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN TODAY'S MORNING PRESS MAKE THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS:

FIGARO: A) IT NOTES THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONSIDERS THAT IT OFFERS POLITICAL MILEAGE TO THE PRESIDENT; IT POINTS OUT THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT UNDERSCORES FRENCH SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY AND WORLD LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE OFFER OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION; B) IT STATES THAT UNDOUBTEDLY COMMERCIALIZATION WILL REQUIRE SEVERAL YEARS, BUT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO EXPORT ENRICHMENT FACILITIES; AND C) IT CONSIDERS THAT NOW THE OSIRAK (THE IRAQUIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESEARCH REACTOR) PROJECT WILL NOT BE CONSUMMATED.

LES ECHOS: IT NOTES THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT PRESENTS A NEW INITIATIVE 24 HOURS BEFORE THE LONDON MEETING AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN LONDON BY PROPOSING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THIS PROJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, URANIUM, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ab48a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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